constituted to consider the cases of lecturers of Kendriya Hindi Sangthan, Agra, for placement in the senior scale, met twice since 31st March, 95, viz., 29.12.95 and 22.8.96. In the meeting on 29.12.95 the Committee decided to seek certain clarifications from the University Grants Commission regarding the criteria prescribed for placement in the senior scale. The delay in processing the cases has been due to the time taken by UGC in providing the required clarifications. In the last meeting held on 22.8.96, the Committee has made its recommendations for placement of eligible lecturers in senior scale.

Meetings with SC/ST Associations

3189. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SC/ST Associations can request for informal monthly meetings with the Liaison Officers of Zonal Railways and the Divisional Personnel Officers and some instructions were reiterated in the year 1994;

(b) whether these instructions are not issued in pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs; and

(c) whether there was any compulsion for the Railway Administration to curtail the facilities of monthly meeting to half yearly, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Earlier instructions were that Liaison Officers meetings both at Divisional and Zonal level can be held on request from Associations. No specific periodicity of the meeting was laid down.

(b) The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs to Eastern Railway in their 47th report vide para—'7' recommended the following:

"Meetings/Conferences of the Liaison Officers should be held at regular intervals to find solutions to the problems faced by them on the basis of the experience gained by each."

The above recommendation was accepted by the Ministry of Railways and the Railways/Production units were advised accordingly in 1989.

(c) Specific periodicity of the meetings was laid down in 1994 (twice in a year) to avoid ambiguous situation. Instructions were issued in February, 1995 for holding monthly meetings, if desired so by the Associations. This was modified in July'96 and instructions as laid down in 1994 were restored in view of too many meetings being conducted at Zonal and Divisional level which leaves very little time to concentrate on real work.

Railway's budgetary provisions

3190. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outlays proposed for 1996-97 under New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Electrification, Research & Development and Rolling Stock;

(b) how these compare with 1995-96, both at BE & RE levels;

(c) whether Railways have made less provision under these crucial heads;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the low provision would not affect Railways developmental projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):

(a) and (b) Statement showing the details of outlays proposed during 1995-96 & 1996-97 is as under

Fig. in Lakhs.

Plan Heads	Budget Estimate 1995-96	Revised Estimate 1995-96	Budget Estimate 1996-97
New Lines (Construction)	20300	28171	22055
Gauge Conversion	113800	143997	114456
Doubling	30400	28237	30371
Electrification project	39070	39101	36070
Rolling Stock	304000	292079	391556
Railway Research	2000	487	900

The figures include anticipated investments by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation, BOLT and OYW schemes in Plan-heads Rolling Stock, Electrification, Doubling and Gauge Conversion.

(c) The provision is lower than last year's Budget Estimate only in the case of Railway Electrification and Railway Research Plan-heads.

(d) On account of overall limitation of resources a minor reduction in Railway Electrification became necessary. Under Railway Research, the provision made is considered quite adequate keeping in view the trend of expenditure last year.

(e) The provision made compares favourably with last year's Budget Estimate for the Plan-head New Lines, Gauge Conversion Doubling and Rolling stock. The reduction in Railway electrification is quite small. No adverse effect on the developmental projects is , therefore, anticipated.

Entitlment for Admissions in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

3191. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children and grand children of MPs, serving and retire employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are entitled to admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas over and above the prescribed class-strength; and

(b) if so, the relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The children and dependant grand children of members of Parliament and children of serving employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are given admission over and above the class strength.

Newsitem on Frog Hunting

3192. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Deccan Herald dated 2nd July' 1996, under the caption "Unabated frog hunting despite ban" wherein it has been stated that the central Government's circular of 1987 does not provide for powers to officials to prosecute the offenders nor is there any authority to take action; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make the ban effective?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hunting of any wild animal specified in schedules I, II, III & IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 except as provided under Section 11 & 12, is prohibited. Frog is included in